



Queensferry Parish Church NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2013

信 息 COMMUNICATION!

Central to the ministry of Jesus was the importance of communicating the message of God's love and life, freely given for all. Everywhere he went, it seems, crowds followed. For what he had to communicate spoke of life and hope, healing and restoration, forgiveness and peace, purpose and power. In his day he simply went out onto the highways and byways, the synagogues, the temples and market places and communicated through story, parable and saying. There, forever illustrating his teaching, were the dramatic miraculous signs and his ever open attitude of compassion and love.

Communication, vital for passing on the message of the gospel in Jesus day is as well we know, vital in our day. Often I ponder the question: "What if Jesus arrived in 21st century Scotland today – how would he communicate to today's generations?" The range of possible options has exploded over recent years: in addition to the established



forms of preaching and book writing we have: websites, emails, texting, facebook, twitter, video conferencing, 24 hour news channels, ipads/tablets, blackberries, smart phones, etc, etc.

What I suspect is that Jesus, as well as using traditional means of communication, would also make good use of this great range of tools. Why would I conclude that? Simply because of the importance of the message he had



come to proclaim through his words and actions. A message of love for everyone – not just those within his hearing and seeing.

Over the summer months we undertook to write to every one of our members and friends in Queensferry Parish Church. The reason was simply to ensure that we, as the Church, the body of Christ in 21st century Queensferry, would be able to communicate best with you all. The letter, with its range of questions was personally delivered, by hand, by our new Roll Keeper, Andrea Howe, and her husband Phil. A huge thanks to them both for all the shoe leather used. Already we have had about a third of the letters back – Thank you for completing them and returning them – and if you haven't yet there's still time! Either bring it to Church in the envelope provided, pop it in the post box or through the Church door.

In this, the second interim Newsletter, we're delighted to announce that a number of new initiatives in the area of communication have been coming together over recent months. Lesley Hamilton-Messer has stepped forward to act as Editor of our Church magazine and around her a team of people are stepping up to ensure a regular read comes your way.

Rev David Cameron's Letter to the Congregation

And how you responded...

A huge "Thank-you" goes to Andrea and Phil Howe who over the summer months distributed a copy of David Cameron's pastoral letter to each member of the congregation - knocking on doors as they went! Copies of the letter were posted to those members who live outside Queensferry itself.

Thanks to the Howe's efforts, there has been an excellent response: over 200 replies have been received. Andrea, our church Roll Keeper, was particularly interested in the biographical sections of your responses, since it is important for us to ensure our records meet Data Protection standards by being accurate and up to date. So, thank you so much.

Many of you told us how you would like the church to keep in touch with you in terms of week-by-week intimations, the church magazine and elders' visits. This information will be very helpful as we plan for the future in a number of areas. This Autumn Newsletter has been delivered to member's homes as in the past, but some folks stated a preference to receive it by email and it is hoped to respect this preference going forward.

We have been delighted and encouraged by your responses to the "How would you be willing to be more involved?" section of the letter. The process of analysing your offers of help is now underway and we are just beginning to respond to you individually. Please be patient with us as the various Ministry and Support Teams get in touch with you to take up these invaluable offers of help.

So for example some of you have offered to: join Welcome Teams; provide tea and coffee on a Sunday; give folks a lift to church; help with crèche and Junior Church; help with the church magazine and website; be involved in prayer and Bible study. Some would like to visit people in their homes; make meals or become gardeners in times of need.

On behalf of the Kirk Session may I take this opportunity of thanking everyone who has taken the time to respond. And if you haven't sent in a response yet - it's not too late! Simply post it or hand it in to the church office. The vast majority of responses have been from those aged over forty. So, if you are 40 or under, it would be great to hear from you!

Guy Douglas, Session Clerk

Plans are unfolding for the development of our church website and a new team is contributing to the variety of challenges involved in providing such a platform for communication in our Church.

One person who knows only too well of these challenges is Andrea Howe, who over many years has created and sustained our present website and we as a congregation are grateful to her for all the work she has done to put our Church out there in the web world.

Within this newsletter, the last before the launch of our new Church magazine in the new year, we hope you'll find a few things to inspire, inform and encourage you!

Every blessing,



MISSION CO-ORDINATOR

Paula Cameron gives us an update on what she's been up to since returning from maternity leave



I'm back from my extended "holiday" as the rest of the team keep reminding me, so refreshed and ready to hit the ground running. As many of you will know I started back to work in August after some time off with my darling little girl Gráinne who is my joy and very precious to both her daddy and I.

Since then it's been a busy start back to the school term, I'm working across three primary schools with varying levels of input covering assemblies and SU groups. I've also joined Michael and Drew with the SU group at the High School. There is potential for an increasing level of input with Tom Thumb, so work with children and families is well under way. We had a very successful Big Parade with the uniformed organisations, and surprisingly some people had never played volleyball in church before.... why ever not!! Hopefully a similar atmosphere will be present at the Holiday Bible Club which will have run over the October break, we're looking forward to blasting off

into outer space and discovering more about the "alien" in the foreign land that was Daniel.

As my focus is on growing wider, and our mission capacity as a church, I'm gearing up for a Kirk Session and Board retreat where some exciting feedback from the Mission Shaped Ministry course attendees will be presented and we shall be listening for God to guide us. It is my prayer that as a church we would seek first the will of God, and then join where he is leading us as a body of believers to go and serve in mission to our neighbours. Statistics for Mission have released their figures from the 2011 census, we have a parish of 7,099 people belonging to 2,959 households so I'm sure you'll agree there's a way to go yet! Please continue to pray for the mission work within the church, and in particular for all the schools within the area.

Paula Cameron

JOHN CARRIE MEMORIAL FUND

When we set out to provide a fitting memorial for our former minister, John Carrie, we wanted to remember his ministry here in Queensferry and we also wanted to give, in his memory, a long term benefit to the children of Chogoria, our partners in Kenya.

A fund was started in 2008 and £16,432.89 was raised. The money was initially used to fund a stained glass window costing £11,850.19. The beautiful stained glass window in the church is full of colour and meaning, it enhances our church building and glorifies God. It give us here in Queensferry a permanent reminder of John's long and wonderful ministry.

To help Chogoria, we wanted to pay to train a teacher. By this means, we set out to help not just one child but many children, perhaps for years to come. A possible trainee teacher was identified by David Mbae and she started her teacher training in 2009. Such was the generosity of our congregation and the people of Queensferry that a second teacher started her training in 2010 and a third in 2012. The first two ladies are now fully trained and David Mbae's latest letter advises us that both are working as teachers. The third teacher has started her training and the fund will support her through her two years at college. (All three teachers are pictured here).



While a group from our congregation visited Chogoria last summer, we discussed with David Mbae the immediate needs of his own primary school which is situated beside the church in Chogoria. We were able to send money to David to buy essential materials for his school. More recently, we have also heard of two children who have needed specific support with their education and the fund helped out with this as well.

In total the money sent to Kenya has been £4,582.70. So what started out in 2009 as an ambition to train one teacher has resulted in long term benefits for education in Chogoria, training not one but three teachers, giving them a job and a purpose in life and also providing education and hope to many children in one of the most needy parts of Africa.

E J Proven, John Carrie Memorial Committee



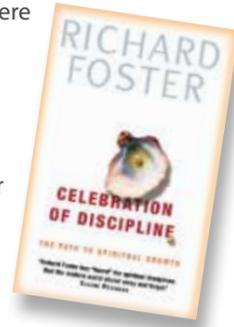
SERMON SERIES

One of the things that continually keeps us going in our Christian life is the discovery that with God there is always more. Paul in Ephesians 3:18 captures this in a prayer for us:

*"I pray that you may have power, together with all the Lord's people,
to grasp how wide, and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."*

God's love: extends wider, lasts longer, reaches higher and goes deeper than we have all yet discovered. Over the months of October, November and into the new year, we hope at our Sunday services to help everyone discover more of this and for all of us to grow deeper in the adventure of faith.

The focus and themes for our services will be based on the classic spiritual book "Celebration of Discipline" written by Richard Foster. You may wish to purchase a copy of it to enrich the journey we're going on – orders can be placed with Derek Hobson (derekhobson47@mypostoffice.co.uk) or go direct online or to your local Christian bookshop.



Taste and See

The title of these events gives us a clue as to what they are about. It comes from Psalm 34v8:

"Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!"

This was written by King David, encouraging the readers to find out for themselves how good God is; how he helps us in life's trials and troubles. He wrote this Psalm from his personal experience. It's a great Psalm to read and put into practice, especially during trials.

Taste and See are events that take place on Sunday afternoons from 5.00–6.30 pm in the church. The discipleship team started them as a trial at the start of 2013, usually meeting every 2nd and 4th Sundays during school term time. The format was to meet and have some food together, watch a 15 minute DVD on a particular subject, then split into small groups to discuss the issues raised on the DVD. The DVDs were all in a series called "Life Journeys" by Jeff Lucas. This skilled and humorous communicator tackled issues we all face as we live our lives.

The aim of these events was to grow closer to other Christians, and to grow deeper in faith and relationship with God, in line with the church's vision. Typically, around 14–25 people met each time.

The feedback from this extended trial was that we should keep going, but perhaps simplify the part where we eat together, to have coffee and cake instead of a meal.

Please look at the intimations to find out details of when **Taste and See** will be held during the autumn/winter term. The first four sessions will be entitled "Elijah – Prophet at a Loss". Elijah at times was very bold and effective in serving God, but at other times he was depressed and discouraged. We will look at how to take courage from the example of Elijah.

Why don't you give it a try? Taste and see for yourself. If it's not for you, then that's OK, you don't need to come back. Even if you can't come to every session, you still might like to try it out.

If you want more details on **Taste and See** or homegroups, please contact Ian Forsyth discipleship@qpcweb.org or via the church office on 331 1100.

Homegroups

Many churches have found that meeting informally during the week in people's homes has been invaluable for both the growth and health of their church. They are often called housegroups, homegroups or cell groups. We are planning to start them later in the year, meeting twice a month. They would have the same objectives as Taste and See, but would provide alternative times for meeting and a greater opportunity to get to know people better provide mutual support.

Folks are of course welcome to attend both Taste and See and homegroups.

In the context of QPC/Dalmeny, they would have the purpose of:-

- **GROWING CLOSER** to each other in fellowship and in caring,
- **GROWING DEEPER** in our faith, in experience and understanding,
- **GROWING WIDER**, as we seek to include others who do not come to church.

Typically, homegroups start with coffee and a chat, and have a time of worship, prayer and bible study. Often homegroups organise social events to help build relationships.

Further information will be given via the intimations.

Mission Shaped Ministry Course

The Mission Shaped Ministry Course (MSM) was run during the second half of 2012 and the first half of 2013. Seven members of QPC attended this course, sponsored by the Edinburgh Presbytery.

Its purpose was to rise to the challenge of declining church attendance. However, it was not about "filling pews" in our churches but by being the Good News of Jesus to people who would probably never come to church as we know it.



Basically the Gospel provides the answer to the deepest human needs, but the majority of people don't think their needs can be met by attending what is traditionally seen as "church". We saw the innovative methods that many churches throughout the UK have used to reach this unreached majority. These new approaches are normally called "Fresh Expressions" of church. There are many shapes and sizes, some meeting in cafes or community centres. Messy church is another example. All the stories for starting *Fresh Expressions* required faith, hard work and commitment; stories of "success" and "failure" were shared, although it was stressed that true failure is to not try.

The *Fresh Expressions* are not intended to replace existing church structures but to run in parallel with them.

We learned the importance of mission being God's mission, not ours; not to ask him to bless our new ways of doing church, but to see where God is already working and join in with what he is already doing.

We were taught various skills which are fundamental to starting a *Fresh Expression*. These included how to discern if/where a *Fresh Expression* is appropriate, how to start and sustain a *Fresh Expression* and how to develop disciples.

Feedback is going to be provided to the Kirk Session, Forum and Board later in the year and we will be asking God the way ahead for QPC/Dalmeny. Already some of the MSM group have been prayer walking around the town, watching and listening for God's guidance.

Details of the next Edinburgh MSM course, planned to start in January 2014, will be available on the Fresh Expressions or Edinburgh Presbytery websites.

Ian Forsyth

FINANCE TEAM REPORT

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Thank you to all who responded to our appeal in May of this year to Gift Aid their offerings to the church. If you are a taxpayer and have not yet signed a Gift Aid declaration or are not sure what to do, forms are available in the vestibule, or speak to Jim Gaw, Gift Aid administrator.



2013 Income and Expenditure

Offerings are slightly ahead of budget which is good news. Also, income from use of premises is £1,500 ahead of budget. On the expenditure side, we are continuing to maintain costs within our overall budget and expect this situation to continue until the year-end.



It's Autumn – it must be Guild Time!



The theme for The Guild this year is "A Fellowship to Build" and that is what we hope to do this year as much as any year. We meet at 2pm on the first Tuesday afternoon of the month and at 7.30pm on the second and fourth Monday evenings. We try to have a varied programme covering all sorts of topics, including our Projects, which this year are *Comfort Rwanda* and a *Passage from India*. We have music, fun and laughter, and we look forward to welcoming all to our meetings.

Our new session started on Tuesday 1st October, and forthcoming topics are:

5 Nov	2.00pm	Rev Elizabeth Kenny	<i>Laughter is the best medicine</i>
11 Nov	7:30pm	Danny Fair	<i>History of Edinburgh Crystal</i>
25 Nov	7:30pm	Sandy Marshall	<i>Musical Entertainment</i>
3 Dec	2.00pm	Rev Tom Cuthell	<i>The Healing Ministry</i>
9 Dec	7:30pm	Disbursement of Funds	<i>'Allium' and 'LoobyLou Bags'</i>

Don't forget The Winter Fayre on 23rd November. We look forward to sharing the time with you all!

This year the Guild Choir celebrates its 40th Anniversary with a special celebration dinner in November to which all former choir members are invited. If you have been a member of the Guild Choir in the past and would like to attend the evening please contact Annette Carrie, 331 4311

Please come along and sample some of the fun and fellowship. We always have time for tea and a chat! Please contact me (0131-331 3803) if you need a lift to any of our meetings or maybe just someone to chum you along.

Catherine Lambe, President

QUEENSFERRY AMBITION



Work continues to develop within Queensferry Ambition. As well as ongoing negotiations with planners and transport authorities regarding traffic and pedestrian access around Queensferry we have just completed a very successful programme of welcome for all the cruise liners which arrive at Hawes Pier. A number of our members have been involved in "Welcoming the stranger" to Queensferry and Scotland and the impact is now slowly being felt across the town. Next year, more opportunities will be available for further volunteers to get involved – able to smile and say hello – then watch this space.

On the 4th September 2013 a special programme of events was launched – all part of the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the Forth Road Bridge.

The "Forth Bridges Festival" will run from 4th -13th September 2014 and will bring a spectacular programme of events ranging from a boat flotilla, a firework display, torchlight procession and the chance for Queensferry to welcome the world to lunch! More details can be found on their website:

www.queensferryambition.co.uk

THE BIG PARADE



At 3.00pm on the 29 September we had our annual uniformed parade and this year we are a great turn out of 100's of young people from the uniformed organisations across the town. On a sunny Sunday afternoon the parade, led by the 1st Tillicoultry Boy's Brigade Marching Band, marched at a great pace along the High Street and up the hill to Queensferry Parish Church where an exciting service took place. Many of the young people took part helping everyone present explore the three main values for next years commonwealth games: *Integrity, Responsibility and Endeavour*.

GIRLS' BRIGADE



Girls' Brigade an organisation for girls from P1 to S6, we meet on Wednesday evenings in church centre with P1 to 3 between 6-7pm and P4 and upwards then meet from 7.15-8.45pm.

We spend our time doing lots of fun activities and crafts and this year our theme is 'Bridges in and out of Bible'.



THE BOYS' BRIGADE

The **Anchor Boy** section (P1 – P3) meet in the Church hall on Friday evenings between 7.00 – 8.00pm.

The **Junior Section** (P4 – P6) have changed location this year and will meet at Queensferry Primary School on Friday evenings from 7.00 – 9.00pm.

The **Company Section** (P7 – S6) will continue to meet at Queensferry Primary School on Friday evenings from 8.00 – 10.00pm.

We have a new programme of activities for all sections and hope to involve the boys in a number of new challenges. If anyone is interested in joining our Company, please come along to the Church hall or Queensferry Primary School on a Friday evening and join in the fun.

Queensferry Care Celebrates 20 Years

Over 20 years ago an event took place here in Queensferry that was to have a significant and long lasting effect on the lives of hundreds of older people living in the community.

A Social Work manager, Inez Paisley who was at that time responsible for older peoples services, recognised that Queensferry was the most poorly served area for the care of the elderly in Lothian Region.

She called a meeting of interested parties and 26 people attended to consider the problem and search for solutions. Six weeks later Inez Paisley convened a follow up meeting, this time with five others - among them were Doctor Douglas Stuart, a local GP and our minister, John Carrie. I think it is safe to say that at this meeting several ambitious plans were put in place.

The outcome of this led to the opening of the Castle Rock Residential Housing Complex, the starting up of SQATS, the volunteer drivers service and, most significantly, the birth of Queensferry Churches' Care in the Community.

Queensferry Care started with a grant of £14,000 from Lothian Region Department of Social Work and an invitation from this congregation to meet in the new Queen Margaret Hall.

Many of you have witnessed the amazing growth of Queensferry Care over the last twenty years from a small project providing Day Care based here through to a fully-fledged Voluntary Organisation operating from its own base, The Haven in Burgess Road which was opened in September 2003.

A journey of growth and development has been supported by a huge number of people but it was the outstanding commitment, dedication and sheer determination of John Carrie that made the impossible, possible. He harnessed the energy of local people, welcomed the support of St Margaret's Church and the Priory Church, drafted the original constitution, searched for additional funding and laid plans for the future.

As chairman of Queensferry Care for many years his vision took form in the hands of a very professional staff led by Winnie Anderson and a growing team of volunteers. Later John handed over the baton to Peter Fitzgerald as chairman and latterly Peter gave way to David Pomfret.

The population of older people in Rural West Edinburgh continues to grow as do the difficulties that beset them. Today the joint General Managers Liz McIntosh and Sharon Hampson-Bahia are charged with meeting the challenges of increasing demand at a time when both the Local Authority and Health Service have dwindling resources.

Currently the day care service meets the needs of 60 older people each week in its Kirkliston and Queensferry bases, the carer support, advice and information service works with 225 carers and the volunteer service utilizes the skills of 60 people of all ages undertaking a wide range of activities including befriending older people in their own home.

This is all very impressive but you have to remember that the core funding for this charity has been frozen by the council for 6 years and therefore the reliance on support from the community has increased over that time.

From small beginnings, Queensferry Churches' Care in the Community has become a gold standard of care within our area. It is worthy of the great support which the community gives in abundance – as volunteers, as fundraisers and as donors. The Board of QCCC are extremely grateful for your support. We thank God for the past 20 years while looking forward with hope and confidence to the challenges of the next 20 years.



CHURCH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

14th Oct Hana Rose Preston, Dundas Home Farm
21st Oct Rohan Alexander Arnold, Murrayfield Avenue
25th Nov Lucy Elisabeth Edwards, Longpark Place,
Livingston
21st Apr Fraser Andrew Duthie, Stonyflatts Crescent,
23rd Jun Oliver McGregor Taylor, Echline Grove
22nd Sep Duncan McNeish, Provost Milne Grove
29th Sep Fiona Thomson, Viewforth Road

THANKSGIVING & BLESSING

12th May Lauren Grace Thomson, Manor Gardens,
Dunfermline
12th May Calum James Thomson, Manor Gardens,
Dunfermline
26th May Blair Matthew Anderson,
Maitland Hogg Lane, Kirkliston
23rd Jun Alaina Margaret Haig, Stewart Clark Avenue

MARRIAGES

5th Apr Grant Tweeddale / Catriona Whittley
1st Jun Adam Brittain / Suzanne Brown
6th Jul Craig Seifert / Rachel Stewart
26th Jul Scott MacAskill / Louise Miller
3rd Aug Matthew Bagworth / Alexandra Auld
20th Sep Lee Mahoney / Angela Gilpin
28th Sep Robert Brown / Rebecca Pitt

NEW MEMBERS

By profession of faith

29th Sep Lesley Gould, Lang Rigg
29th Sep Gary Taylor, Echline Grove
29th Sep Stacy Taylor, Echline Grove
29th Sep Fiona Thomson, Viewforth Road

NEW MEMBERS

By resolution of the Kirk Session

and transfer from other congregations

29th Sep Bob Gemmell, Atheling Grove
29th Sep Marion Gemmell, Atheling Grove
29th Sep Alan Hamilton-Messer, Hesperus Broadway,
Edinburgh
29th Sep Lesley Hamilton-Messer, Hesperus Broadway,
Edinburgh
29th Sep Douglas Macleod, Newhalls Road
29th Sep Fiona Macleod, Newhalls Road
29th Sep Kenneth MacPherson, Plewlandcroft
29th Sep Olivia MacPherson, Plewlandcroft
29th Sep Jan Moran, Ashburnham Loan
29th Sep Mark Moran, Ashburnham Loan
29th Sep Peter Woollven, Dundas Place, Kirkliston

DEATHS

18th Sep Robert Donaldson, Stewart Clark Avenue
13th Nov David Cassells, Springfield Crescent
26th Nov Jenny Marshall, Lawson Crescent
27th Nov James McLucas, Hope Street
18th Dec Elizabeth Duthie, formerly Shore Road
29th Dec Ernest Savage, Moubray Grove
19th Jan Ivor Thomson, Walker Drive
11th Feb Michelle Innes, Dundas Avenue
20th Feb John Fordyce, Priory Grove
24th Mar James Thomson, Hope Street
10th Apr Margaret Morton, Walker Drive
16th Apr Anne Hall, Sommerville Gardens
6th May Betty Monaghan, Linlithgow Care Home
19th May Robert Hardwick, Pentland Hill Care Home
26th May Fredrick Shiels, Dundas Avenue
27th May Christine Kinniburgh, Springfield Terrace
2nd Jun Hilda Lloyd, Shore Road
24th Jun Agnes Ross, Rosebery Avenue



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